

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were pending in this application. No claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Hence, claims 1-24 remain pending. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,626 to Aiken, *et al.* (hereinafter "Aiken").

The office action objected to the drawings for failing to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols in Fig. 4-7 as described in the specification and suggested a table to fulfill this requirement. Thus, the Applicants have added tables to selected figures as suggested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of all claims since the prior art does not teach all the claimed limitations. For example claim 1 recites, "creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes data from the records of both the first and second files having matching key segment data." The office action states that this teaching may be found at col. 7, ll. 6-26 of Aiken. While this passage does mention a "temporary file," it is clear from the reading of the passage that the temporary file does not store "data from the records of both the first and second files having matching key segment data." The temporary file of Aiken stores position and hash value information. Thus, Aiken does not teach this claim limitation.

Further, even if one were to assume that Aiken teaches a temporary file that stores data from other files having matching key segments, which it does not, Aiken nevertheless fails to teach that data is selected from the temporary file and output as the Applicants claim. The passage cited by the office action as teaching this limitation (Fig. 6, col. 16 ll. 49-67, and col. 17, ll. 1-67) says nothing about selecting data from the temporary file created above and outputting the selected data. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be allowable at least for these reasons.

Further still, Aiken does not suggest these limitations. A significant advantage to the Applicants' claimed embodiment is that the source files are no longer needed once data from

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matching records of the source files has been written to a temporary file. This is not the case with Aiken. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be allowable for this additional reason.

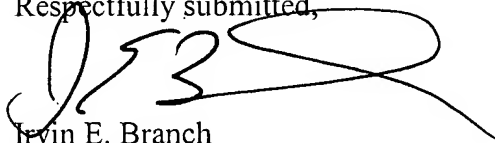
Independent claims 10, 18, and 24 include similar limitations and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons. Further, the remaining claims all depend from one of these independent claims and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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